

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic mail management method by which multiple combinations of an unopened time limit and a notification destination are set in an electronic mail management system,
5 wherein the electronic mail management system posts the presence of unopened electronic mail to a set notification destination by a preset communication means in combination with the unopened time limit every time the unopened time limit at which received electronic mail is kept unopened is elapsed.

10 2. An electronic mail management method, comprising the steps of:

15 posting the presence of unopened electronic mail to a recipient of the unopened electronic mail by a preset means when the unopened electronic mail exists exceeding a preset first unopened time limit; and

posting the presence of the unopened electronic mail to a sender of the electronic mail by a preset means when the unopened electronic mail exists exceeding a second unopened time limit that is longer than the first unopened time limit.

20 3. The electronic mail management method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first and second unopened time limits and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a combination of mail addresses of the recipient and the sender.

25 4. The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the first and second unopened time limits

and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a keyword contained in a title of the electronic mail.

5. The electronic mail management method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein information about a time zone where the notification can be performed to the recipient or sender of electronic mail or the time zone where an unopened state is not to be calculated.

10 6. The electronic mail management method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the contents of notification are made to differ according to whether the notification destination of unopened information is the recipient or sender.

15 7. The electronic mail management method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to another mail address of the recipient is used the mail address of the original electronic mail sending source and as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to the electronic mail sending source is used a unique mail address on the electronic mail management system.

20 8. The electronic management method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein charging is performed to the user in accordance with the results to which the unopened notification is performed.

25 9. The electronic mail management method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein a fee is charged to the user

in accordance with communication charges when the unopened notification is made using a notification method in which the communication charges are applied.

10. An electronic mail management method, comprising the
5 steps of:

setting a combination of a sending source mail address, a receiving mail address, and an unopened time limit in an unopened notification condition master; and

posting to a sender of electronic mail by a preset means that the electronic mail sent is unopened when the electronic mail sent from the sending source mail address set in the unopened notification condition master to the receiving mail address is unopened exceeding the unopened time limit,

wherein an electronic mail sending source can refer to the information of the unopened time limit that is set to be posted to the sending source by specifying the sending source mail address set in the unopened notification condition master.

11. The electronic mail management method according to
claim 10, wherein the contents of modifications are validated
20 under approval of the corresponding sending source when a record
set in the unopened notification condition master is added,
modified or deleted,

12. The electronic mail management method according to
claim 11, wherein the effect is automatically posted to the
25 corresponding sending source when the record set in the unopened

notification condition master is added, modified or deleted.

13. The electronic mail management method according to
claim 11, wherein URL (uniform resource locators) on the
Internet in which the information is announced and a password
for enabling the reference and approval of the information to
the sending source when the record set in the unopened notification
condition master is added, modified or deleted are posted.

14. The electronic mail management method according to
any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein charging to the user is performed
in accordance with the number of setting items to the unopened
notification condition master.

15. The electronic mail management method according to
claims 1 to 14, wherein the number of received mail items that
is an unopened notification management object for each recipient
and the number of received mail items for which the unopened
notification is performed to the mail sending source among the
mail items are held and the mail management information of the
recipient created based on the information is provided.

16. The electronic mail management method according to
claims 1 to 15, wherein a program is enabled on a computer.

17. An electronic mail management system that manages
unopened electronic mail, comprising:

an electronic mail sending and receiving unit, an unopened
notification condition master, and a notification instruction
unit, wherein

the unopened notification condition master sets a plurality of unopened time limits, unopened information notification destinations, and notification methods in accordance with a combination of the mail address of the electronic
5 mail recipient and the mail address of the electronic mail sending source, and

the notification instruction unit posts the unopened information using the notification method set in the notification destination that is set in the unopened notification condition master when unopened electronic mail exists even if the unopened time limit set in the unopened notification condition master elapses.

18. The electronic mail management system according to claim 17, wherein a first unopened time limit at which the notification destination is the recipient and a second unopened time limit that is longer than the first unopened time limit at which the notification destination is the sender are set in the unopened notification condition master.

19. The electronic mail management system according to claim 17 or 18, wherein a time zone in which the notification of unopened information is made or not made, or an unopened state is to be calculated or not to be calculated can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

20. The electronic mail management system according to claim 17, 18 or 19, wherein the setting of a keyword contained

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in the title of received mail and the setting of the unopened time limit, notification destination and notification method combined with the keyword can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

5 21. The electronic mail management system according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein a program is enabled on a computer.